

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-11 /113 W

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R 011559Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2618

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO B UY

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, XL, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN MEMBERSHIP IN CARICOM AND NAM

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 824, B)PORT OF SPAIN 804

1. IN DISCUSSING WITH FONMIN FRED WILLS MARCH 31 WHAT TRW STATED LAST WEEK IN PORT OF SPAIN AT CARICOM FONMIN AND SUMMIT MEETINGS, I ASKED ABOUT HAITIAN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. WILLS GAVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION OF OUTCOME THAN THAT GIVEN BY EMBASSY PXS SOURCE (REFTEL B).

2. ACCORDING TO WILLS, THE WHOLE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT FOR A TECHNICAL STUDY OF HAITIAN TARIFF STRUCTURE, TRADING PATTERNS, MARKET POTENTIAL,ETC. WILLS SAID THIS WAS PAR-
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TIALLY A STALLING TACTIC SINCE SOME CARICOM MEMBERS HAVE RESERVATIONS OF VARYING INTENSITY ABOUT HAITIAN ENTRANCE, BASED ON (A) THE

PREDOMINANT INFLUENCE OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCS) IN

FRAGILE HAITIAN ECONOMY AND (B) DOUBTS ABOUT HAITIAN CONTRIBUTION TO EXPANSION OF INTRA-CARICOM TRADE GIVEN EXTREME POVERTY OF PEOPLE. WILLS SAID THERE WAS GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF HAITI ON CULTURAL AND ETHNIC GROUNDS BUT THIS FAILED TO GENERATE ENOUGH SYMPATHY TO OVERCOME NEGATIVE ECONOMIC FACTORS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE WILLS THOUGHT I WAS ASKING SIMPLY ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN COMMON MARKET AND WAS DISMISSING AS PROFORMA THE PROPOSED TREATY AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW HAITI TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY (REFTEL B).

4. I ASKED WILLS ALSO ABOUT HAITI'S APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS WITH NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. WILLS SAID HE THOUGHT IT DOUBTFUL COORDINATING COMETE (NACC) WOULD ACT FAVORABLY ON HAITI'S APPLICATION. HE SAID THERE WAS BEING CIRCULATED AMONG NACC MEMBERS A STUDY OF GOH VOTING RECORD AT UNITED NATIONS (AUTHORSHIP NOT MENTIONED.) THIS STUDY DISCLOSED THAT ON KEY ISSUES GOH REPS WERE MOSTLY ABSENT, BUT WHEN THEY DID CAST VOTES IT WAS PRACTICALLY ALWAYS ON SAME SIDE AS USG VOTE.

5. I OFFERED NO COMMENT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT I DID NOT THINK TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO INFLUENCE OF TNCS IN HAITI. I TOLD HIM HOW REYNOLDS METALS REPS HAD DESCRIBED TO ME THEIR 1974 NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH GOH, WHEN THEY WERE HELD WITHOUT FOOD, WATER OR TOILET FACILITIES IN STUFFY GOVT OFFICE FROM 0800 UNTIL AFTER 1900 FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN A ROW.

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